

SEES GOOD POINT IN CHARTER BILL

Research Bureau Favors Civil Service for County Departments

POSITIONS ON MERIT

Pamphlet Says Politics Would Be Eliminated in Appointments and Dismissals

In its most recent pamphlet the Bureau of Municipal Research discusses that phase of the charter measure now before the Legislature that would extend the merit system to county departments as well as to that part of the government coming directly under the control of the Mayor.

In reference to this it says: "The present law regulating the civil service of Philadelphia applies only to the departments under the control of the Mayor and to the office of the City Solicitor. The one other 'city' department—the Receiver of Taxes—was exempted from civil service by special legislation. The present law does not apply to any of the county departments; nor does it apply to departments in the twilight zone between county status and mayoral jurisdiction, such as the Fairmount Park Commission.

"If the proposals of the charter revision committee are adopted, all city and county departments, including those in the twilight zone, are brought under civil service. In order to avoid constitutional difficulties, the county civil service is provided for in a separate bill.

"The present civil service law is administered by a commission of three members appointed by the Mayor for overlapping terms of five years and removable at the pleasure of the Mayor.

"The proposed law will be administered by a single commissioner, chosen for a term of four years by a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the City Council. Under the provisions of the county civil service bill he will serve as ex-officio county civil service commissioner.

"The present law requires the civil service commission to submit the names of four eligible persons for a single vacancy. This number is wider choice by the appointing officer than experience has shown to be necessary and it opens the way to favoritism.

"Under the proposed law only two names will be submitted for a single vacancy.

"At the present time no policeman or fireman may be dismissed from his service without a right to be heard before a court of trial, composed of members of his department, of equal or superior rank. No such protection, however, is accorded other city or county employees.

"Under the proposed law, not only policemen and firemen, but all employees who come within the scope of civil service provisions will have the right to be heard before a trial board designated by the civil service commissioner. The decision of this board, when approved by the commissioner, is binding upon the appointing officer. In case of a decision of dismissal, however, the accused employee may, within ten days, appeal to the Court of Common Pleas for a new hearing in this court.

"The Shern act makes it unlawful for city employees to take active part in politics and provides that in case any employee violates this act he shall be dismissed either by the Mayor or by his superior officer. Since political activity on the part of city employees is usually in response to the desire of the superior officers, it has proven an ineffective method to leave the enforcement of the law entirely in the hands of these officers.

"Under the proposed law a violation of the provisions against political activity is punishable not only by dismissal, but also by fine and imprisonment, and the enforcement of the law is strengthened by giving any taxpayer the right to go into court. We by a writ of mandamus to compel dismissal.

"The proposed civil service law also provides for a standardization of salaries and grades in city and county service. This is in line with the general trend throughout the country to create more equitable conditions of employment in the public service."

WORKERS HEARKEN TO CALL OF RELIGION, PASTORS SAY

Miners, Shipyard Employees, and Even Foreigners Giving Bible Teachings More Serious Consideration Than Ever Before

Opinions were expressed today by ministers attending the Methodist Conference here as to the effect upon foreigners, miners and shipworkers of the present religious activity.

The shipworkers have been engrossed with the almighty dollar, according to the Rev. W. A. Lewis, pastor of the Providence Avenue Church, Chester, and a former four-minute man.

"While there were a great many workers in the shipyards to whom religion seemed to have no appeal, yet there were many of the better class of these workers who adhered more staunchly than ever to their church affiliations," he said.

"In the yards themselves at the meetings which we held there every noon, the men demanded a straightforward, simple talk on practical Christian principles. There could be no use of the sissy about it. They received us with enthusiasm.

"The results as to increased church attendance on the part of these men are not very impressive, but we have perhaps sown seeds which will later bring forth a harvest.

The Rev. W. A. Lewis, pastor of the Providence Avenue Church, and a man who has done work among the shipworkers, said that the attendance of the shipworkers at church had fallen off during the war despite the large increase in the industrial population.

Drawbacks Encountered "I think there are two chief reasons why the worker in the shipyard has not responded better than he has," he said. "One is that the greatly increased demand for war materials caused the men to work on Sundays and at night. This naturally gave him less time to devote to church-going or active religious affairs.

Another reason for the disappointing showing is that their very high wages opened avenues of pleasure to them on Sundays and other days which had not been available before. A repeal of the present so-called 'blue laws' will only cause a still greater falling away of these people from the church."

In the matter of the miners in the Pottsville district, the Rev. W. Q. Bennett, pastor of the Pottsville Church, and former superintendent of the Anthracite Mission, said that no class of workmen had been more faithful during the war to their church obligations than the miners of eastern Pennsylvania.

"The foreign and English-speaking miners were both exceptionally loyal," he said. "His high wages only made him more liberal in giving to the church. Despite the loss of the miners who went into the service of the country, the attendance at the churches is at least equal to what it was before the war."

"High wages had no effect in leading men away from the church. If they did, the miners could not have increased their savings at any rate and made the investments they did in Liberty Bonds.

"We have adopted a policy of increased social activities as the most effective means of reaching the miner. The miner is receptive and responsive religiously. His attitude has been very encouraging."

Foreigners Respond The foreigner in Philadelphia has likewise responded to the appeal of the religious bodies in a way to give satisfaction to the churches, said the Rev. John Watchorn, corresponding secretary of the Philadelphia City Missionary Society.

"The great drawback in the matter of looking after the foreigner religiously," said Mr. Watchorn, "has been that we have not changed our methods sufficiently to meet the demands of the foreign element. As the foreigner came into several sections of the city the native has moved out.

"The man of foreign birth has naturally many prejudices. We want to overcome this by carrying out of social activities which will convince him that we are an altruistic ministry. We must do this largely on his social side. He has a background of oppression which has given him these prejudices against governments and churches in general. We must convince him of such fallacies.

"A creditable increase in church attendance is shown among the foreigners, although many of them went to war. Their high wages had no bad effects, but they gave more than ever before to the church. The war period showed a success in religious work among the foreign-

FRELINGHUYSEN QUIZZES COLBY

Senator, Declining Debate on League of Nations, Submits Questionnaire

WRITES TO CONSTITUENT

Condemns Draft in Present Form as Opposed to American Ideals

By the Associated Press Washington, March 13.—Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, makes public a letter written to Everett Colby, of West Orange, N. J., asking information regarding features of the league of nations constitution which, the Senator said, he had been unable to obtain from President Wilson or Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, retiring chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A series of questions on the effect and interpretation of the league charter were presented to Mr. Colby by Mr. Frelinghuysen, asking whether the league as now proposed would interfere with existing secret treaties between European powers, whether the United States would be outvoted, whether it requires submission of domestic questions, would require the United States to use its military forces in maintaining territorial claims of any foreign nation and would prohibit withdrawal of the United States from the compact without unanimous consent.

Senator Frelinghuysen submitted the league questionnaire to Mr. Colby in response to an invitation from the latter for a joint debate which Mr. Frelinghuysen said he was unable to accept because of illness in his family.

"Though a century has passed since it was uttered, I am not yet ready to cast into the discard the splendid advice of Washington against 'entangling alliances,'" the Senator added.

"Though nearly a century has elapsed since it was promulgated, I am already to toss into the waste-basket, as a scrap of paper, the Monroe Doctrine, for I know our great influence in the world at large has been due to our adherence to that remarkable principle of government. It was that which made us the dominant power in the Western Hemisphere and finally enabled us to play a major role, though a late one, in the great war so recently ended.

"I will not agree that the men of America, in uniform or out, shall be at the beck and call of any European or Asiatic nation.

"I am not willing that the latter shall demand an army at our hands or disperse it at their convenience and pleasure, that they shall fix the number of our guns or scrap our navy.

"I am for and not against a proper alliance or league between the civilized powers of the earth to promote peace and discourage war, but I am now, and forever will be, opposed to the subjugation of American sovereignty to the will of any foreign powers or combination of powers."

CAPTAIN LASCHENSKI TO QUIT Philadelphia Architect to Leave Camp Meade Saturday

Camp Meade, March 13.—After nearly a year and a half service here in the 14th Depot Brigade, Captain Sigmund J. Laschenski has been relieved of command of the headquarters company and will be discharged from the service Saturday.

Captain Laschenski was one of the leading architects of Philadelphia and entered the first officers' training camp at Niagara Falls, N. Y., and was graduated as a second lieutenant and sent to command of the Polish company in the 14th Depot Brigade, which was popularly called the "Foreign Legion." This organization was disbanded some time ago.

Captain Laschenski has been succeeded in command of the Headquarters Company by Captain William F. Fulton, of Philadelphia, who was efficiency engineer of the United Gas Improvement Company of that city prior to entering the service.

CANADA ASKS QUESTIONS

Australia Also Investigates U. S. Department of Agriculture Methods

Inquiries have been received by the United States Department of Agriculture from Canada and Australia for full particulars regarding the organization and operation of farm bureaus in the United States, indicating that interest in the plan of work is no longer confined to our own country, but that other countries are eager to adopt a similar type of organization.

The farm bureau is not only an organization to aid the farmer, but also an agent, but is becoming the official agency, or institution, educational in character, for co-operating with the state and nation in meeting agricultural needs and in planning, administering and directing all phases of extension work in agriculture and home economics in the country.

WHERE CROPS ARE GROWN

Mississippi Valley Farms Produce 61 Per Cent of Total

To the total crop value of the five years 1910-14, says the Department of Agriculture, the agricultural divisions contribute the following fractions: The North Atlantic States (from Maine to Pennsylvania), 11 per cent; South Atlantic, 15 per cent; North Central, east and west North Central, 23 per cent; total North Central, 41 per cent; South Central, 22 per cent; and Far Western, 10 per cent. Total for the North, 52 per cent; for the South, 28 per cent; Atlantic coast, 26 per cent; Mississippi Valley, 61 per cent; Mountain States and Pacific coast, 10 per cent. Measured by value alone, the crop importance of the Atlantic coast is more than one-quarter of the total, of the Mississippi Valley nearly two-thirds, and of the far West one-tenth.

St. Paul May Get Convention

St. Paul, Minn., March 13.—St. Paul is being officially considered for the Republican national convention next year, it became known today. The possibility of holding the convention in the local auditorium was discussed with Will H. Hays, the national chairman, when he conferred with leading Minnesota Republicans here recently.

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POLICE AT SERVICE FOR DEAD COMRADE

Charles Danowitz Funeral One of Largest Ever Held in Manayunk

One of the largest funerals ever held in Manayunk was held today for Patrolman Charles Danowitz, who was shot and killed accidentally by a fellow-policeman.

Early this morning hundreds of his friends visited the home at 145 Marble street, where the body lay. The casket was hidden under a great bank of flowers.

Grouped about the coffin were the six children of Danowitz, one the adopted child of a dead sister. They ranged in ages from three to twenty-one years.

Delegations from the four Polish societies of which Danowitz was a member appeared at the house in regalia, and two squads of police from the Twenty-second street and Hunting Park avenue station marched behind the hearse to the church, where requiem mass was sung.

Church services were held in St. Jo-

saphat's, in Cotton street. Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Joseph Poremba, assisted by the Rev. Stephen Krysty. It is estimated that nearly 1000 persons attended the service at the church. The burial was in Westminster Cemetery.

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